MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING AUGUST 3, 2010

Chairman of the Board – Kenneth D. Koehler (District 2)

D'-1-1-1-0

District 1	District 2	District 3
Yvonne M. Barnes	J.S. "Scott" Breeden	Mary L Donner
Robert Bless	James Heisler	Ed Dvorak
Anna May Miller	Kenneth Koehler	Kathleen Bergan Schmidt
Marc Munaretto	Lyn Orphal	Barbara Wheeler
District 4	District 5	District 6
Sue Draffkorn	Tina Hill	Randall Donley
John Hammerand	James P Kennedy	Mary T McCann
Pete Merkel	Virginia Peschke	Daniel P Ryan
Sandra Fay Salgado	Paula Yensen	Ersel C Schuster

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by County Clerk Katherine Schultz with Members of the Board, department heads and visitors participating. Mr. Kennedy gave the invocation/personal remarks.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by County Clerk Katherine Schultz. The following members responded: Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, Merkel, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke and Koehler. Absent: Ryan, Salgado, Barnes, McCann and Miller. Chairman Koehler declared a quorum present with nineteen (19) members responding. Parliamentarian Jamie Rein was present. Mr. Ryan and Ms. McCann arrived after the roll was called.

MINUTES

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any changes or corrections, there were none. Ms. Yensen made a motion seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve County Board minutes of July 20, 2010.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion to approve minutes has passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Koehler said that the County is going to be recognized by the IL Planning Society for the 2030 Plan. This is quite an honor for the County's Plan to be chosen for one of the Burnham Awards. The Chairman congratulated everyone involved with bringing this Plan to fruition this award shows all the hard work that was put into it.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

D'-4-1-4-4

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8.1 McHenry County Economic Development Corporation Update - P. Cumpata

Ms. Cumpata came forward and said it is an interesting time in McHenry County. Depending on which sector you refer to you'll hear different things i.e., in the service area which includes financial institutions, attorneys etc. that sector remains quite precarious as the markets have yet to pick up. Construction areas are still sluggish but some road projects are moving forward noting that project costs have dropped in the last 30 months. In the manufacturing sector Ms. Cumpata said the comments she is hearing are that they are cautiously optimistic. Many companies are busy and have brought down their workforces to a core group and they're using our staffing agencies to bring in temp to hire people. She is hearing from the staffing agencies that they are busy because they too have brought their number of employees down so therefore they're doing more with less people.

Ms. Cumpata showed some of the products that are made here in the County. The product companies represented on the table employ about 3,100 people in McHenry County and they all say they are going strong. Ms. Cumpata told the board that in the first two quarters the EDC has provided assistance to over 150 entities, some trying to come into the county some trying to stay in the county. She said they are still talking with Navistar however that's not looking too good as the CEO was looking for a ten minute closer commute and we can't compete with that when they don't

live around here. They have had 20 site visits with one that did come out and visit a property in Crystal Lake. Sometimes there are distance issues that can't be overcome but there are other site searches going on and there is renewed energy, which is a good sign. In the upcoming weeks Ms. Cumpata said they will be hosting their annual legislative breakfast at Woodstock North High School. At this time Ms. Cumpata said they remain cautiously optimistic and thanked the County Board for everything they do in making sure that McHenry County stays strong and capitalizes on the assets that we have.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any questions. Ms. Yensen asked what kind of program outcomes are you looking at as far as measurable results in building the capacity in our county as far as bringing jobs and companies or expanding companies. Ms. Yensen said she is trying to figure out the pluses and minuses; are we losing or gaining jobs in McHenry County. Ms. Cumpata said we're not gaining as fast as we probably lost. She said she will try to quantify things for Ms. Yensen and forward that information to her. Ms. Yensen said she would like to see a report prior to a presentation so that she can follow along and figure out what the numbers are. Ms. Cumpata said they have conducted over 200 face to face meetings and saved 30 jobs in Richmond before the end of last year. She said sometimes it's hard to quantify. The two companies in Richmond have not moved 30 jobs here and the other one would be buying a building in Rockford and another one would be out of business, and if the EDC had not stepped up McHenry County would not have been in Navistar's radar. In addition to that they have a new company in Richmond which Custom Accessories relocated from Niles to Richmond. In saying hello and welcoming them, the company said they were trying to hire people and the "Put Illinois to Work Program" isn't working. He couldn't get anyone to call him back so Ms. Cumpata said upon hearing that she was immediately calling the Governor's office, Workforce Network and elected officials offices helping to get this person's comments heard. Mr. Hammerand asked where this company is located. Ms. Cumpata said it is on Amy Dr., the Intermatic building. The company who houses this 247,000 square foot warehouse imports everything. Noting no other questions, Chairman Koehler thanked Ms. Cumpata for her presentation.

8.2 County financial status/budget preparation update – P. Austin and R. Sarbaugh

Mr. Austin and Mr. Sarbaugh came forward to talk about the financial status of the county and gave a power point presentation. Mr. Austin said he and Mr. Sarbaugh are very aware of our current financial situation and know that it is a difficult time right now. He believes that we have the management tools in place to get through this time. Mr. Munaretto recently shared with the Finance Committee a report from Standards and Poor called The Top 10 Management Characteristics of Highly Rated Credits in U.S. Public Finance. Mr. Austin said reading through this report it was reassuring that we are doing the things that are outlined in those top 10 characteristics. Mr. Austin stated that he feels very good about the things we can control but it's the things we can't control, notably the revenues that are giving us some pause.

Mr. Sarbaugh told the board that ending fiscal year 2009 we were able to enhance the General Fund Reserve by \$6,179,000 with a note that of that amount \$3,779,000 was the pay back for the purchase of the Klehm property and Cardinal Savings Bank, which really means we added \$2.4 million to the reserve. This is a huge accomplishment during these financial times and something we all should be very proud of. Mr. Sarbaugh said at this point we ended with 6.43 months in reserve for the General Fund but he made it clear to everybody so that everyone is on the same page that 6.43 months is one snap shot in time. That does not reflect any of the long term capital projects that we have built into the financial model that we know at some point in time this organization is going to address. The positive thing is we have the luxury of deciding when we are going to address them especially during this time of economic slowdown. He noted that the 6.43 months was as of November 2009. If you were to look at the financial model today over five years that rapidly drops down to just about 5 months cash reserve which is the policy the board has established that they want to maintain in order to run this organization the way we have been running it. Mr. Sarbaugh talked about where the General Fund has been at 7 months to date showing the revenues vs. expenditures. Right now the expenditures exceed the revenues by about \$3 million dollars. He and Mr. Austin are watching these numbers very closely. Mr. Austin commented that in April when they presented to the board there were predictions on the near future and we are generally tracking where it was predicted. Mr. Sarbaugh continued speaking on how the county does its reporting and said what is being shown here today is actually if you were to look at our accounting system, most of the revenue is based on cash received at this point and not necessarily what has been earned and what is still due to the county. With that being said, there is about \$1,124,000 of state income tax that the state has not paid us for three months of revenue yet, a year ago we had what was due, but now the state is slowing in paying. There is also one month of local use tax still outstanding and about \$300,000 in state salary reimbursements. Mr. Sarbaugh said we have been notified by the state they are reducing the salary reimbursements for the State's Attorney, Public Defender and the Assessor. That \$300,000 is a combination of these along with court services for probation officers. Mr. Austin added that the jail number is another area of note. Last year jail revenues were very good, collecting over \$12 million dollars in revenue from the federal government on jail receipts. He said the county budgeted about \$10.5 million in revenues for this year and we're off a little bit at this point. The new

under-sheriff has made this a priority. The early numbers that have been seen suggest that the work that the Sheriff's office is doing to hit the projected figure is paying off as some of the daily averages are up over 400 inmates on some evenings. Lastly, Mr. Sarbaugh said 2010 was the first year we had full payment on our new debt service for the Klehm property and Cardinal Saving's property which increased our cost against the General Fund budget. Worthy of noting is that in the next two years we start losing some of our debt, it goes off of the books so this hopefully is a temporary blip.

Mr. Sarbaugh asked if there were any questions. Mr. Austin said we are still early in the budget process. Yesterday they had their first budget committee reviews with the Law & Justice Committee. There are a couple of department s that haven't finished their review meetings yet. Mr. Sarbaugh said based on the levies and the calculations they have done, it looks like we would be bringing in \$2.4 million dollars in property taxes, an increase over the current amount. He went over the slides and the projections where he believes the 2011 budget is going to be for the General Fund. The projected revenues for 2011 noting it is very conservative is \$82.4 million and the projected expenditures for 2011 from the General Fund; Personnel is at \$51.7 million, showing an increase of just under \$700,000 and that does not include any merit increase for any non-union employee. The only increases calculated in at this point are for the union contracts that we have to honor. He went on to talk about the other projections on the slides noting changes that occur in different areas.

Mr. Sarbaugh said overall they are projecting expenditures currently to be at \$85,447,000 for the General Fund which actually means if you take the \$82 million being projected in revenue less the \$85 million being projected in expenses we're looking at covering a \$3 million dollar deficit. He said he will use this projection as a bench mark when reviewing the numbers that the departments have turned in. He noted that if there is a number way different than what he is projecting, he and Mr. Austin will have the opportunity to sit with the department and talk about why there would be such a variance.

Mr. Austin said the next year will be a challenge but we can do this; we were around this same area last year and were able to add to the General Fund this year. He said they have contingency plans in place and will stay on top of the expenses. Most importantly they will continue communication with all elected and appointed department heads on preventing deficit spending.

Ms. Schuster asked in regard to the jail revenues, if we were going to get caught in any of the backwash that is going on with immigration. Mr. Austin said 2009 was a great year but 2010 hasn't been as strong at this point. He said we have to remain very aware of what's going on with the federal government in that program. There have been changes but these have been more positive for us recently, like the consolidation of locations for depositing federal detainees and McHenry County has been one of the primary points. He said they have been exploring a relationship with the Navy about holding some of their prisoners. Mr. Austin said we can't count on the money long term so we have to be mindful and notes that the contract with the federal government will be half over in October, and it was a ten year contract so we need to start thinking about the future of that. Chairman Koehler noted that the Navy is probably looking at maybe some brig detainees but that would be a small number. The U.S. Marshalls have also been contacting us and that would probably be more prisoners but they would be higher profile prisoners. He said he has also been in contact with at least one of the collar counties that built out their jail and right now they are at their seams, so there is potential opportunity to work with other counties to bring some of their prisoner load to McHenry County, just as we send our juveniles out of the county.

Ms. Yensen asked about the 2.4% potential increase in property taxes. Mr. Austin said that the tax cap allows property taxes to go up by 5% or the rate of inflation whichever is less and is measured from December to December. One of the challenges that they had in last year's budget was that inflation was nil in 2008 it was .1 so property tax was very flat. Inflation for the past year measured was 2.7% so if taxes are allowed to increase by 2.7% that will net us about \$2.4 million dollars. Some board members expressed concern about this because constituents are facing job loss, foreclosure and some just hanging on. To have their taxes go up with the value of their homes declining is a big issue. Ms. Hill noted that McHenry County can only control how much we levy at the county level and the 2.7% tax rate is going to go up regardless. Even if you appeal your taxes and win, all that does is spread that tax to everybody who didn't appeal. The way it works we are held harmless as a county and it is just a fact that we will get more because taxes don't go down. Mr. Munaretto stated that the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act separated the idea of how much taxes are generated by any units of government and really became a model for how to equitably distribute the taxes among the taxpaying population within a unit of government. Also, he noted that only eight cents of the dollar of your property tax bill is County government, the largest share of the tax exposure has to do with the schools.

Unfortunately, Ms. Yensen said, perception is everything and how we conduct ourselves and allocate resources is important. She said to make the assumption that taxes are equitably assessed she believes is untrue. Mr. Munaretto replied that the concept of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act is to equitably, which is constitutional by the legislature, to fairly distribute the tax burden among the people who are responsible for paying the tax. Practically, there is an issue of equitable assessment which he has brought up, the system that we use that allows the Board of

Review to use information to adjust assessed values that is outside of the three year averaging period, effectively establishes a two-tiered system in McHenry County. Ms. Hill pointed out that the County is not raising taxes, the tax rate is going up based on the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law; the County's levy has stayed the same or declined in the last four to five years.

Mr. Austin went on to say that they are aware of some of the financial stresses our citizens are going through and the County is watching very closely how we handle our finances during this difficult time. Capital projects are being pushed back as well as road projects as funding is being watched so closely at this time. National health care is something that is also being watched because the long term impact of this is unknown but there are some short term concerns about employer costs.

It was asked if there are any other questions. Some board members asked if they could get a written copy of the presentation. Mr. Sarbaugh said they will put one in member's mailboxes and e-mail a copy. Chairman Koehler thanked Mr. Austin and Mr. Sarbaugh for their presentation. He said the conservative approach has definitely been taken in projecting the income levels and the expenses have been and are being cut by departments throughout the County.

PLATS None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Koehler explained the rules of public comment. The following people spoke:

Mary Anne Weltch of Woodstock for Turning Point	for	reallocation of funds resolution (14.2 H2)
Bob Wagner, Pres. of Village of Union	for	reallocation of funds resolution (14.2 H2)
Margaret Boyer of McCullom Lake	for	reallocation of funds resolution (14.2 H2)
Marilyn Shepit of McCullom Lake	for	reallocation of funds resolution (14.2 H2)
Karen Scully of McCullom Lake	for	reallocation of funds resolution (14.2 H2)

Noting no others wishing to speak, Chairman Koehler closed public comment.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 CMAP 2040 Plan comments letter

Ms. Hill said board members were asked to review the CMAP 2040 Plan for the next thirty years and there wasn't a lot of time to do it. There was a special meeting with Planning & Development and a letter was drafted to send out on this. The Transportation had technical comments on specific areas of the plan so that is going to go through Transportation Committee to forward on. Ms. Hill said they didn't want to presume that everyone on the board would feel the same as the seven committee members so they are looking for input or comments on this letter being drafted and that the board would support sending this letter under Chairman Koehler's name.

Ms. Hill said one sentence that might be in disagreement is in the third paragraph where it says "we believe the tax structure needs to be systematically reviewed and overhauled" and then the "motor fuel tax may need to be increased". She said the biggest point they wanted to make was that we didn't want any tax increases. She would like to have a consensus of the board that these are the comments we want to send back to CMAP. Mr. Munaretto said he had an opportunity to think about the changes being suggested. He told the board that the body of the CMAP plan not only talks about overhauling the tax structure but it also suggests some new taxes one being to tax services in IL. He said we need to be clear that we do not wish to impose any new taxes. Ms. Schmidt suggested that maybe having sales tax on services would be beneficial in helping the tax structure. Mr. Munaretto also suggested that in closing this letter it is signed by the Chairman and he feels it should also include "and the members of the McHenry County Board". He feels this would send more of a powerful statement. Several other board members agreed about not imposing any new taxes. Also, some members had a problem with the third paragraph where it says "our general consensus that the state has a spending problem and not a revenue problem". It was suggested that wording be changed to "has a spending problem and a taxing problem". Ms. Schuster said she is having a difficult time understanding why we are a part of CMAP where we have a group that's basically stacked against McHenry County. We are in a good financial condition at this point because of some very difficult decisions that this board has been making over the last decade. To be thrown into the mix and the potential for redistribution of our hard work troubles her. She would like it explained what CMAP can do for us.

Ms. Hill asked Dan Shea, our CMAP representative, to come forward to explain the voting process. Mr. Shea said that CMAP was developed to be an advisory group combining both CATS and NIPC which was done in 2005. To keep the control of it reasonable and not push us out of the picture, it's set up with fifteen voting board members; five are from the City of Chicago, five are from Cook County, and five from surrounding counties. The voting on the issues requires twelve votes of the fifteen so that there is no overriding control by Chicago/Cook County. Right now

they were charged as part of their program with having these plans and their funding is based on the planning, funded both by a small amount of business but primarily through federal and state monies. A small amount does come from municipalities that request facility planning areas. Facility planning areas are the areas of sewer work where sewers are for municipalities and companies in that business. It was said that there was research done about giving tax abatements and/or incentives to bring businesses to communities. The research shows sometimes it's not of benefit to the community and creates competition between municipalities. After ongoing discussion between board members, the following changes to the letter were being suggested:

Change third paragraph, third sentence remove "not a revenue problem" add "has a spending problem and a taxing problem. " "We believe this tax structure needs to be systematically reviewed and overhauled." Page 2 first paragraph first sentences, remove "the motor fuel tax add "But, we do not believe that if certain taxes are expanded, that the State will reduce other taxes. We do not support any new taxes at this time. "

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote as a consensus of changes to the letter to be sent, the ayes had it. The letter will be revised and sent out today. Ms. Hill thanked Mr. Shea for his representation of us and to Ms. Daigle of the DOT for coordinating transportation's comments.

Chairman Koehler said he will attempt to get Randy Blankenhorn here to address the County Board. Additionally, he said if anyone had any specific comments get them to him, he has the opportunity to interact with Mr. Blankenhorn and your comments will be shared with him. Ms. Schuster said she would like some definition as to who's land use plan; who's transportation plan prevails; is it the CMAP plan or the county plan in either case. Chairman Koehler said right now it's definitely the county plan.

APPOINTMENTS

None

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES

Mr. Merkel told members of the Building Projects Committee that there is a need for a meeting regarding the new Archive Storage Facility. Tentatively the meeting is scheduled for Friday August 20th at 9 a.m. Please let him know if you are able to attend.

Mr. Hammerand said due to the lack of business at this point the Liquor and License meeting scheduled for Wednesday August 11th will be canceled. If something comes up by this Friday he will let committee members know.

Ms. McCann said there will be a Wind Task Force meeting on Monday August 9th at 1:30. The P & D Committee suggested putting the Task Force together along with the Environmental Committee. If you know of anyone who is interested who might be outside of either the municipalities, the County or MCCD, let her know they may want to participate.

ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Koehler asked if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hill removed item #14.2 H2.

Ms. Peschke made a motion seconded by Ms. Donner to approve the Routine Consent Agenda with one item removed.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Ryan, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke and Koehler. Absent: Salgado, Barnes and Miller. The vote being twenty-one (21) ayes noting three (3) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Routine Consent Agenda has passed.

14.2 H2 Approval of Amendments to the annual Action Plans for program years 2009 and 2010 and amendment to Resolution R-201007-10-155

Ms. Hill made a motion seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to approve the above-named resolution.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Ms. Hill said this is a reallocation of funds due to a timeliness program. Ms. Hill said they did have a special P & D meeting this morning and this was passed unanimously there.

Ms. Wanaski came forward to explain this. If the board will allow them to move the projects that are shovel ready forward they need to go to a 30 day publishing requirement because this is a substantial change to our action plans. Ms. Wanaski said for many years the County has considered the CDBG program year to be the year that you sign the contract (no matter what date that is) and a year later the program year ends, the contract money is gone and we start a new program year. This is wrong. Program year to HUD is calendar year, January 1 thru December 31. Now they have to backtrack. Ms. Wanaski said there are only two parts of the grant that needs some fixing and that would be the service agencies because they have a 15% cap and admin which has a 20% cap. Ms. Wanaski said we have an issue with the caps. HUD has two issues with their grants, one is grants to agencies and the other is admin. Ms. Wanaski did a power point, a paper copy of the charts are on file. Ms. Ciampi came forward and explained the charts saying that HUD is making us go back to 2009 so by 2011 the entire problem will be fixed. She explained the de-obligation of funds that would take place and where the monies would be obligated to. By doing this we will be following HUD's guidelines and be in compliance. Today we are just doing a reallocation of funds. It was pointed out that we have been doing things incorrectly for 15 years and have been audited each year, but suddenly this auditor has decided that this is the way it needs to be done. There will be discussion in the future on how things will be funded due to new rules within HUD. Chairman Koehler pointed out that HUD has been very helpful to us and they understand that the problems we are having were not intentional.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Ryan, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Dvorak, Hammerand, Heisler, Hill, Kennedy, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Orphal, Peschke and Koehler. Absent: Salgado, Barnes and Miller. The vote being twenty-one (21) ayes, noting three (3) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve 14.2 H2 has passed.

ORDINANCES

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said that Mr. Korpalski has been nominated to serve on the IL Assoc of County Engineers Board of Directors, he is to be commended for that. Several dates he wanted to note: the IMC Water Forum is August 7th; ribbon cutting with our Groundwater Protection Task Force and Congressman Manzullo will be August 18th. This will celebrate the installation of the observation wells and the telemetry units that are now associated with them. The next meeting of the Valley Hi Operating Board will be August 25th at 7 p.m. at Valley Hi. The Wind Turbine Task Force will meet on August 9th and lastly Mr. Austin said he will be out of the country from August 13th – 23rd visiting a relative in Peru. If there are any questions or issues contact Mr. Sarbaugh or Mr. Labaj.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Hill said that the Burnham Award is a prestigious award. This award will be given out at their conference in Normal on September 20th to 22nd. If any board members are interested in attending that she believes you can sign up on line for that or let her know. It would be nice to have someone who was interested in the planning process be available to accept this award on behalf of the County. Chairman Koehler said there were a record 32 nominations this year.

Mr. Merkel reminded board members that the dedication of the renovated conference center at Glacial Park now the Lost Valley Visitor's Center will be August 13th and the open house for the general public on August 14th.

Mr. Hammerand said the McHenry County Fair is starting on Wednesday going through Sunday. He had the honor of judging the young kids and their 4-H projects in their small engines, welding and bicycles. He noted that the children in our community are outstandingly bright and talented.

Ms. McCann said in talking about revenues, she would like to see as much data as possible to support or deny some of the statements we make as she feels it makes for better decision making. Also, we just passed a fee schedule for transportation for overweight and over sized vehicles, and these fees go into the General Fund as she recalls. She said perhaps we could start looking at the fees that are collected by each of the departments to see how they are offset in the budget process. It was noted that this is on the budget sheets and that not all departments bring in revenues. Departments that don't bring in revenues eat into these fees. Mr. Austin said that he and Mr. Sarbaugh try to show the projected revenues and if there is a significant increase or decrease, they try to point that out.

Ms. Peschke thanked Mr. Sarbaugh and Mr. Austin for their complete overview of our finances. She wondered if in the future when there is a lot of detail if we could get that on the laptops. They will work on that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Donner made a motion seconded by Ms. Yensen to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 17th day of August, A.D., 2010.

s/ Kenneth D Koehler Kenneth D Koehler, Chairman McHenry County Board

ATTEST:

s/ Katherine C Schultz Katherine C. Schultz, County Clerk